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Government  
of Ontario  
Publications

*Your Guide to the 1995 Budget*



**ONTARIO  
ON THE JOB  
*and*  
LOOKING  
AHEAD**





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AWN 2504



## *Your guide to Budget-making, 1995*

We welcome your thoughts and advice. You can let us know what you think by writing to the Minister of Finance or to your local Member of the Provincial Parliament (M.P.P.). The Minister's address is:

Floyd Laughren  
Minister of Finance  
7th Floor  
Frost Building South  
7 Queen's Park Crescent  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1Y7  
Fax: (416) 325-0374

If you would like additional copies of this booklet, or find out more about the pre-Budget consultations, there is further information on pages 22 to 24.

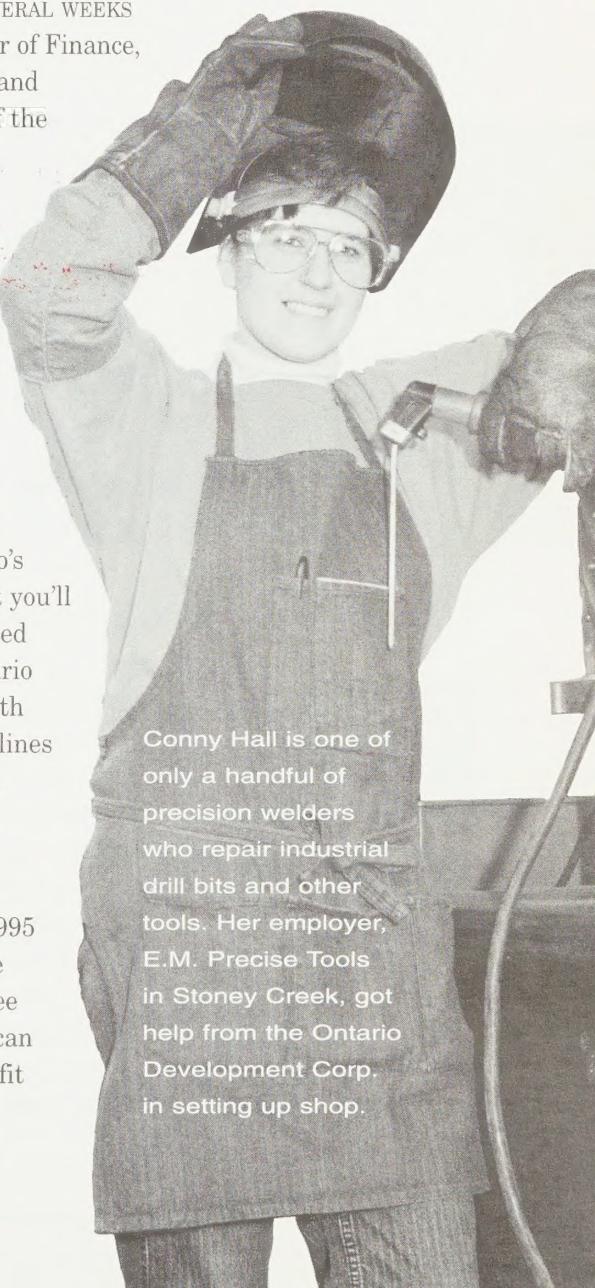
**Si vous désirez la version française de ce document, veuillez vous reporter à la page 24.**

# ONTARIO ON THE JOB AND LOOKING AHEAD

**O**VER THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS Ontario's Minister of Finance, Floyd Laughren, and other members of the government will be travelling throughout the province to find out what you would like to see in the 1995 Budget. These "pre-Budget consultations" reflect the way that government has opened up the process of Budget-making in Ontario over the past four years.

This booklet is a starting point for talking about Ontario's successes and challenges. In it you'll find how government has helped people and businesses in Ontario prepare for the economic growth we're now experiencing. It outlines how government has balanced Ontario's needs: creating jobs, providing affordable services, and reducing the deficit.

As we look ahead to the 1995 Budget, we need to turn to the challenges that remain, and see how, by working together, we can help everyone in Ontario benefit from our economy's sustained growth.



**Conny Hall is one of only a handful of precision welders who repair industrial drill bits and other tools. Her employer, E.M. Precise Tools in Stoney Creek, got help from the Ontario Development Corp. in setting up shop.**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

ONTARIO'S ECONOMY IS ON THE MOVE — CREATING JOBS, BOOSTING output, and gathering strength for sustained growth through the rest of the decade. In 1994, the real value of goods and services produced in Ontario grew by 4.5%, our best performance in six years. Just as important, renewed vigour in the economy created 182,000 jobs between February and November of this year — almost all of them full-time.

People and businesses are working and investing in Ontario because they are confident about our future, more confident than they've been in years. We have worked hard to build that confidence.

Ontario's success reflects our unique approach to fostering growth. We have forged links right across Ontario by encouraging partnerships — between employers and workers, educators and businesses, local communities and their industries.

*Ontario  
is  
working...*



### *Creating quality jobs with our partners*

THE GOAL OF PARTNERSHIPS IS FIRST AND FOREMOST TO INVEST IN the people who are shaping Ontario's future. That's why we encourage investments in a highly skilled workforce, affordable public services, and the assets Ontario needs.

The wide range of our **jobsOntario** initiatives reflects these priorities. The partnerships we've put together to invest in training, assets, industries and communities are paying off for people across Ontario:

■ **jobsOntario Training** gave *Manon Fisher* the skills she needed to get into the labour force after a two-year search. And it helped her employer, Chapleau Machine and Steel, to upgrade the skills of workers already in place. To date, **jobsOntario Training** has helped more than 65,000 people — many of them long-term unemployed — to get training and a chance at a worthwhile job.

*...Our plan  
is  
working*

# A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF FINANCE



■ Because of **jobsOntario Capital**, construction worker *Giuseppe LoDato* and his employer Ellis-Don are at work extending Metro Toronto's University subway line north to Sheppard Avenue. Ontario has invested \$14.7 billion in long-term assets over the past four years, directly supporting an average of 115,000 construction-related jobs a year. This spending gives Ontario valuable roads, bridges, public-transit lines and other infrastructure.

■ *Barbara Hann* has moved into a full-time job building furniture at Woodcore, a project of Ottawa-Carleton's Community Enterprise Centre that got started with help from **jobsOntario Community Action**. Woodcore provides jobs to 21 former social assistance recipients and keeps money that used to be spent on imports in the local economy — a textbook example of community development.

At the same time that we've made these strategic investments, we worked at creating a climate for business growth.

■ We've given employers a break from paying the Employer Health Tax for the first year a worker is on the job — directly supporting the hiring of 12,000 workers.

■ Our Clearing the Path initiative makes it easier to set up new businesses by providing a "one-stop window" for registration.

■ Our agencies are keeping businesses' overhead costs down by controlling Ontario Hydro rates and assessment rates for the Workers' Compensation Board.

## The job ahead



S THE ECONOMY GATHERS STRENGTH, OUR TASK WILL BE TO MAKE sure that everyone in Ontario benefits. By working from the gains we've made to date, we will ensure a better future for Ontario.

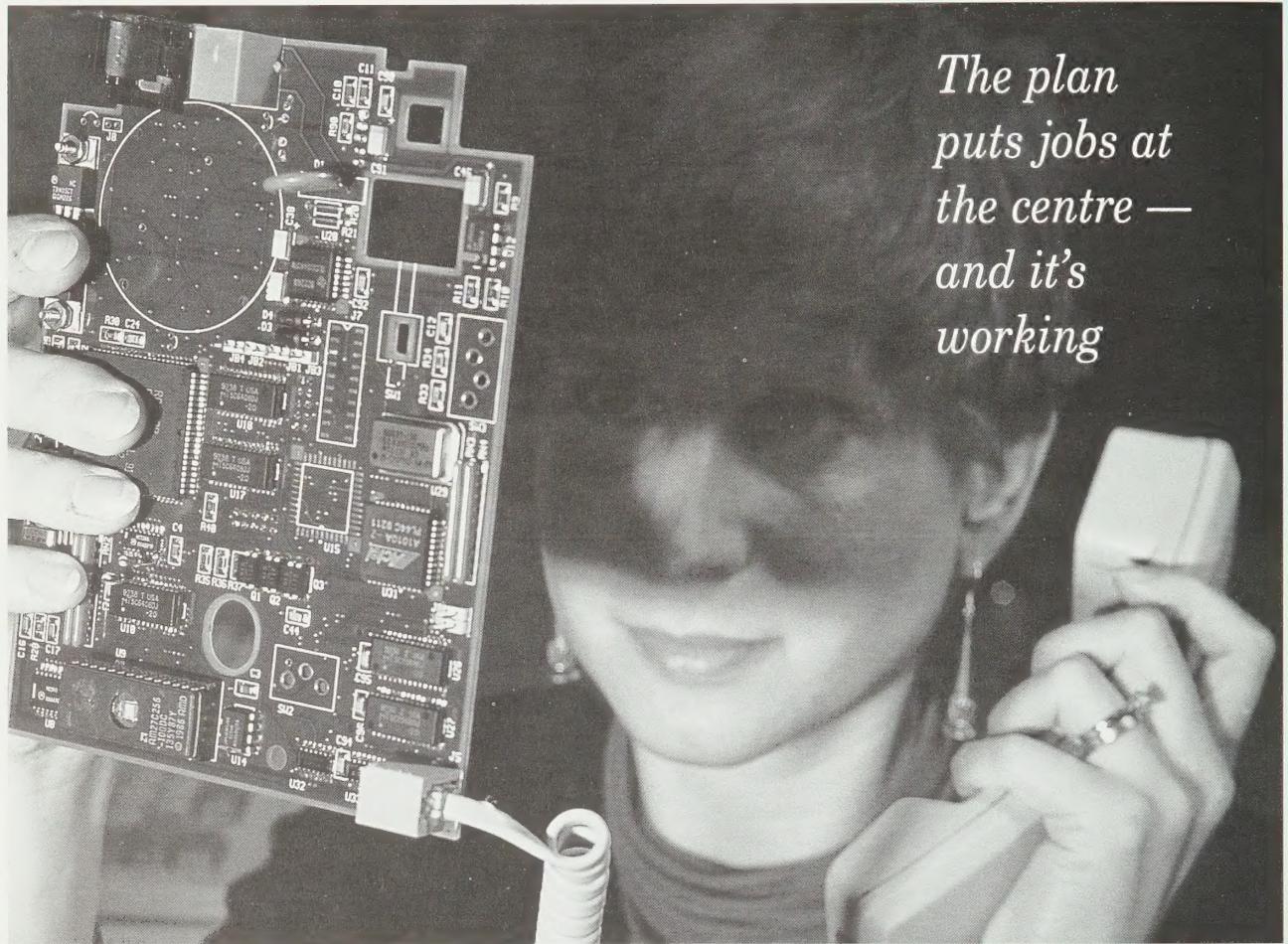
Our vision is a revitalized Ontario economy that continues to create high-quality jobs. We know we can do it. Ontario's work force is one of the most skilled and flexible in the world — strengths cited by the many international firms that have chosen to invest here.

We can meet all our goals. By thinking strategically. By finding new ways of doing business that save taxpayers money but don't lower the quality of service. And most of all, by continuing to build partnerships — which are the heart of our plan. The benefit will be a more secure and prosperous future for all of us.

A handwritten signature in cursive ink, appearing to read "Floyd Laughren".

Floyd Laughren, Minister of Finance  
December, 1994

## ONTARIO IS WORKING...



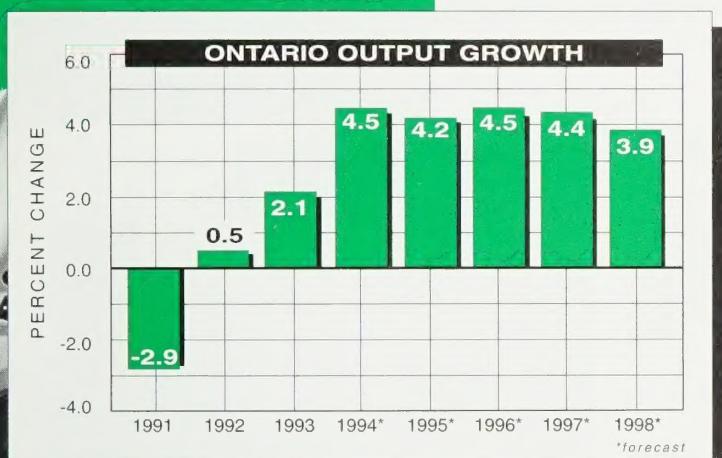
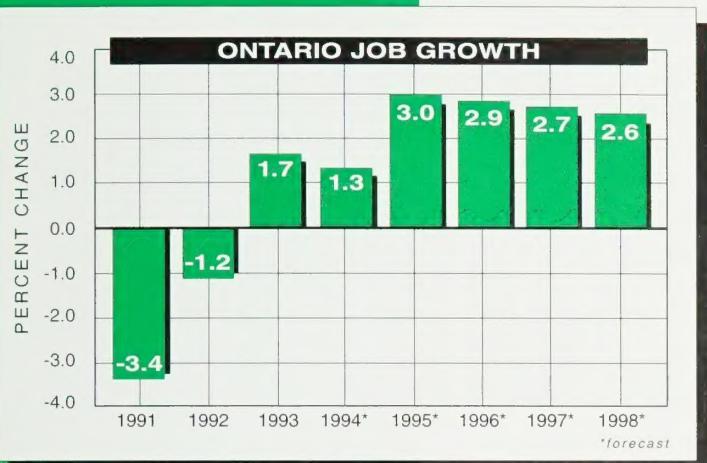
*The plan  
puts jobs at  
the centre —  
and it's  
working*

**T**HE PACE OF GROWTH IN ONTARIO HAS PICKED UP. IN 1994, the real value of our output rose by 4.5% — our best economic performance since 1988. And the outlook is also strong: most forecasters expect Ontario to perform better over the next few years than any of the top seven industrialized economies. The government's forecast is for average growth of more than 4% a year through 1998.

Ontario's growth follows from the steps that many firms have taken to make themselves more efficient. Government is doing the same. The facts back up government's commitment to control spending. Overhead costs are down by 16% over the past three years. Spending on programs has fallen for two straight years — a first for an Ontario government in more than 50 years. But hard work every step of the way has allowed cuts without hurting service, and without putting thousands of people out of work. This balanced approach is the only one that makes sense.

**Creating high-quality  
jobs is government's  
number-one priority.  
A wide range of  
**jobsOntario**  
programs is helping  
us meet that goal.  
Since February,  
our economy has  
created 182,000  
new jobs, almost  
all full-time.**

ONTARIO IS WORKING...



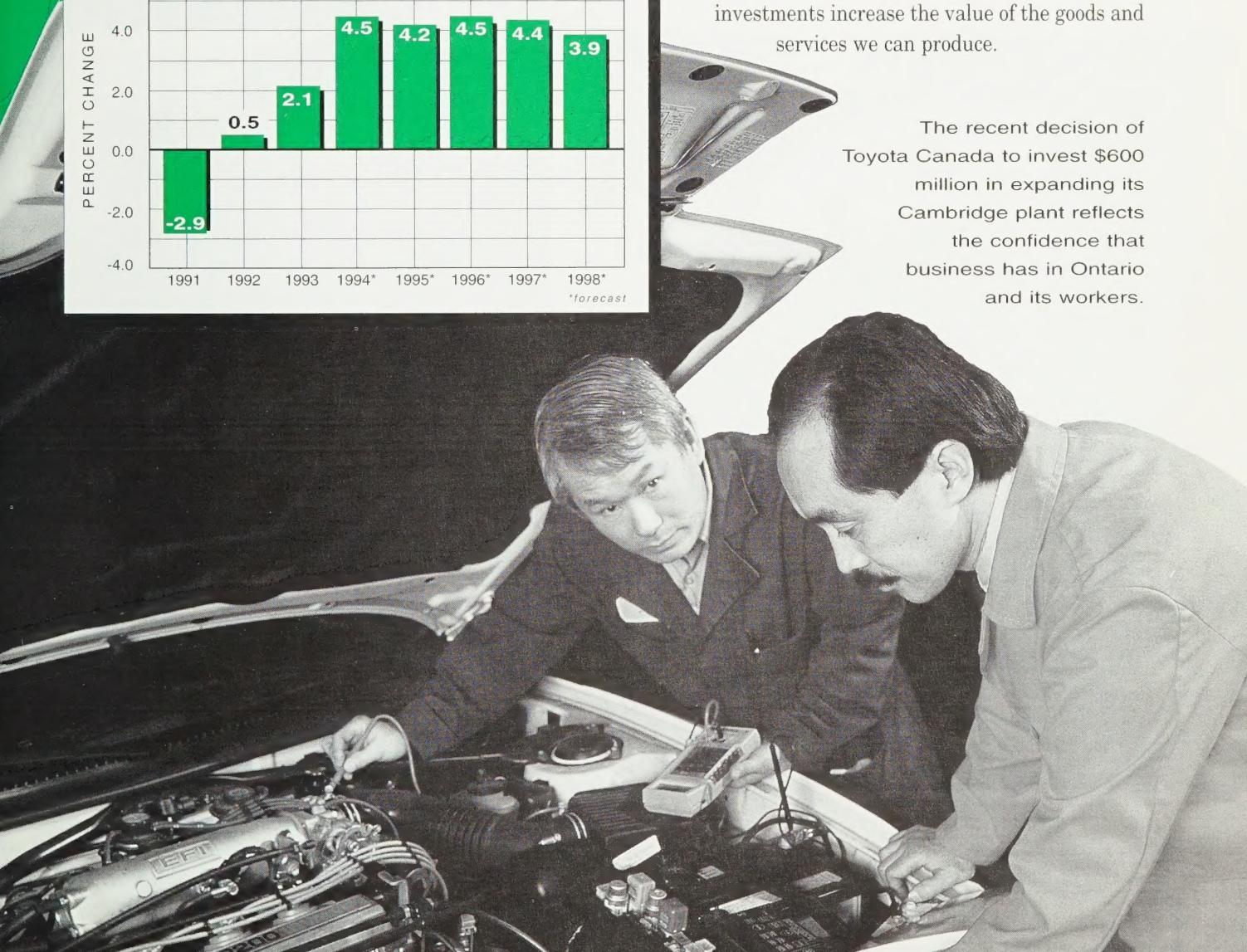
*The numbers tell  
the story*

C

ONFIDENCE IN ONTARIO AS A PLACE to live, work and invest is at new highs. Consumer confidence has risen steadily over the past 15 months and, nationally, business confidence is at levels last seen in 1979. People in Ontario are at work and spending their money here, giving retail sales a 6.7% boost so far this year.

Record levels of business investment in new equipment also reflect confidence in Ontario. Businesses are expected to increase this type of spending by 12.3% in the next year. These investments increase the value of the goods and services we can produce.

The recent decision of Toyota Canada to invest \$600 million in expanding its Cambridge plant reflects the confidence that business has in Ontario and its workers.



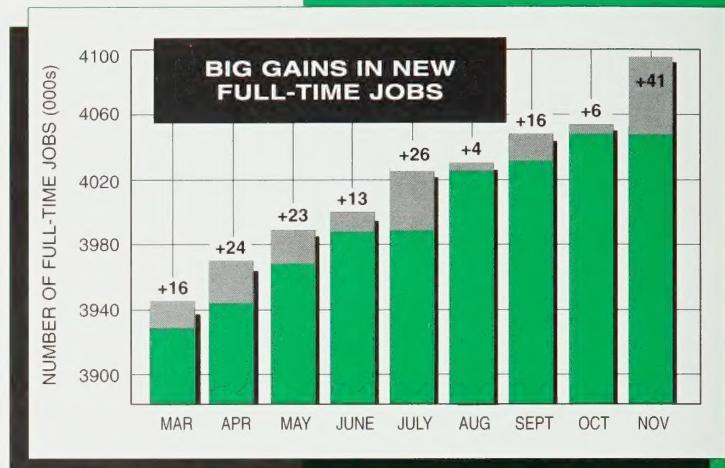
## QUALITY JOBS MEAN SOLID GROWTH

- 182,000 new jobs in last ten months
- Longest and strongest stretch of full-time job gains in a decade
- Jobs are being created at the fastest rate since 1988
- New jobs are higher-tech, higher-skill

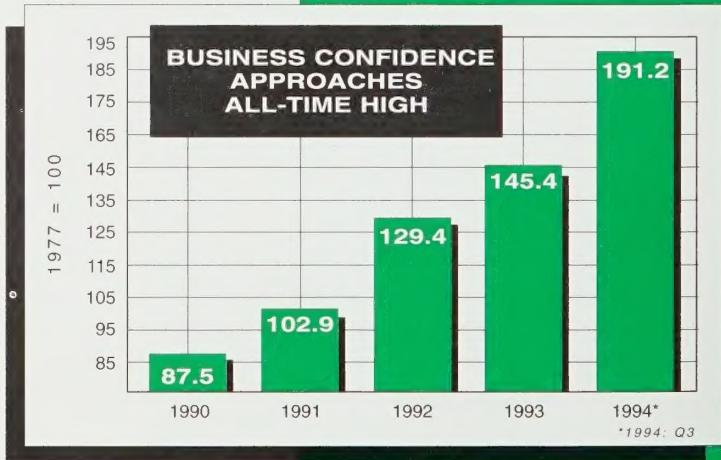
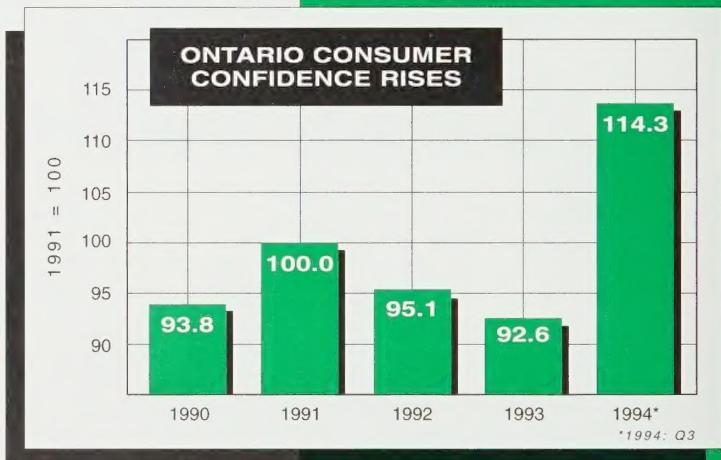
### *Ontario unemployment at a three-year low*

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HAS fallen below 10% this year, reaching 8.7% by November — its lowest level since late 1990. This year has also seen a dramatic decline in permanent layoffs and plant closures, both down nearly 20% from last year's levels.

Since 1990, almost all new jobs have gone to workers with post-secondary education, underlining the importance of a strong government commitment to training and education. Higher skill levels pay off: most new jobs are in industries and occupations with higher-than-average salaries. This trend is expected to continue, with new jobs going to those with more education or specific skills — especially as new technologies change our workplaces.



*169,000 new full-time jobs since March*



## *How Ontario's government is helping*

**Ontario's commitment to capital spending in the past four years has kept thousands of workers on the job building assets that improve the quality of life for all of us: public transit, schools, hospitals, libraries, roads, and water treatment plants.**

# G

RWTH BASED ON HIGH-SKILLED JOBS TAKES A COMMITMENT TO partnership: with educators, workers, business and communities. Ontario is building the assets we need to improve the quality of life and make business more productive. With its partners, government is sharpening workers' skills through comprehensive training and adjustment programs. The Province is also drawing on local expertise to build our towns and cities, and working with exporters to succeed in global markets. Its actions to manage the public sector more efficiently are helping to create a climate for sustained growth by keeping services affordable and holding the line on taxes.

An ability to create partnerships lies at the centre of Ontario's successes. Increasing competition in the world around us means a greater need for co-operation at home.



Canopress Photo Service

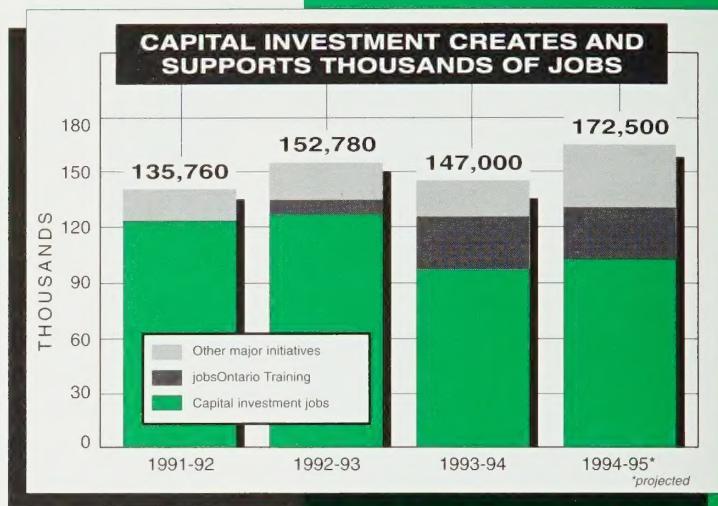
# BUILDING ONTARIO'S FUTURE

## Real assets for jobs and growth

OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS, ONTARIO has invested \$14.7 billion in capital projects: roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, and all the other assets that an expanding economy needs. Building these assets through **jobsOntario Capital** has supported tens of thousands of private-sector jobs and prepared Ontario for its current growth.

In a highly competitive world economy, Ontario's public assets are a key advantage. Modern highways, roads and bridges create vital

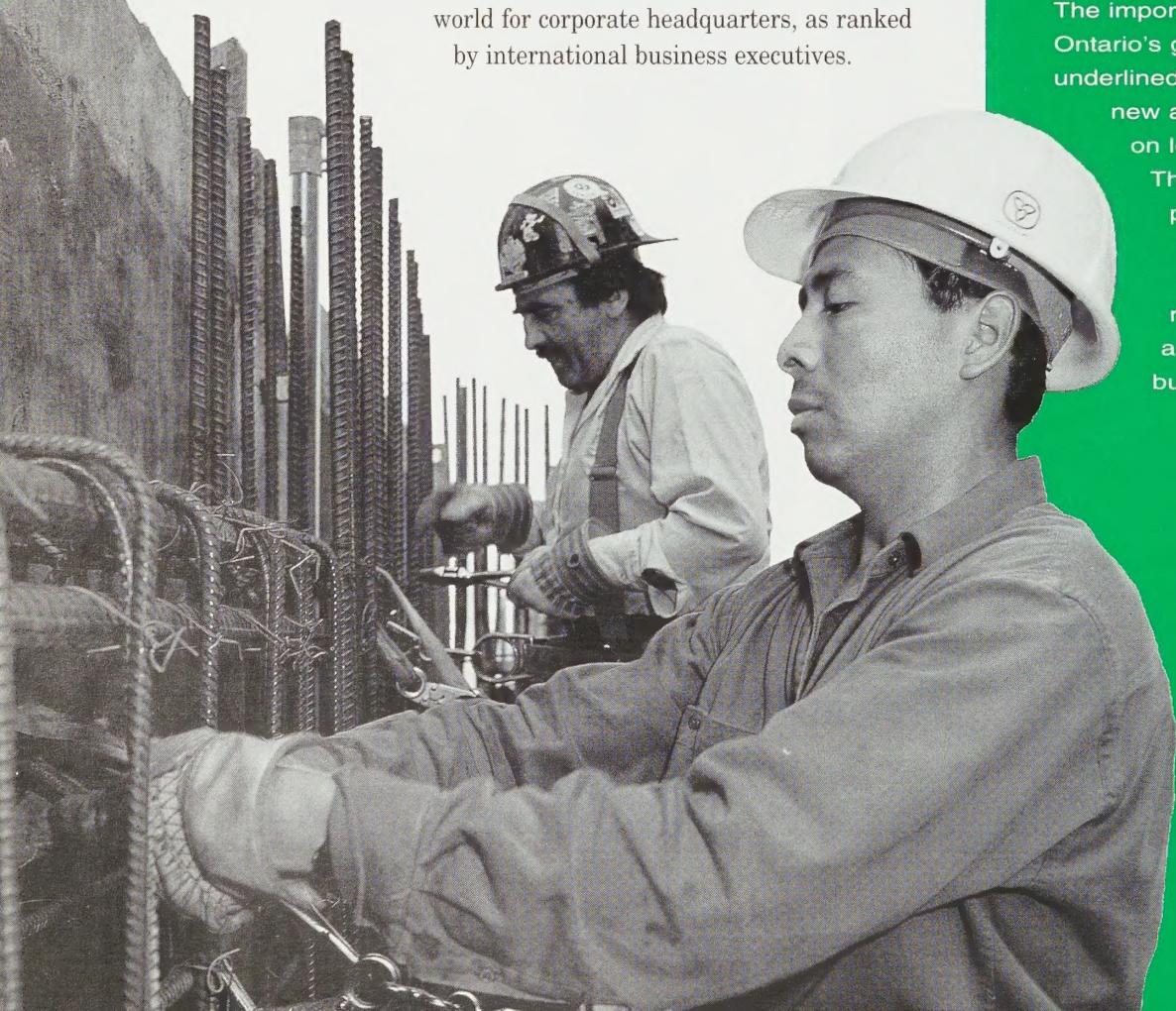
links for suppliers, manufacturers and customers. Schools, libraries, colleges and universities contribute to the high skill levels of Ontario workers. These investments have helped make Toronto one of the five most desirable cities in the world for corporate headquarters, as ranked by international business executives.

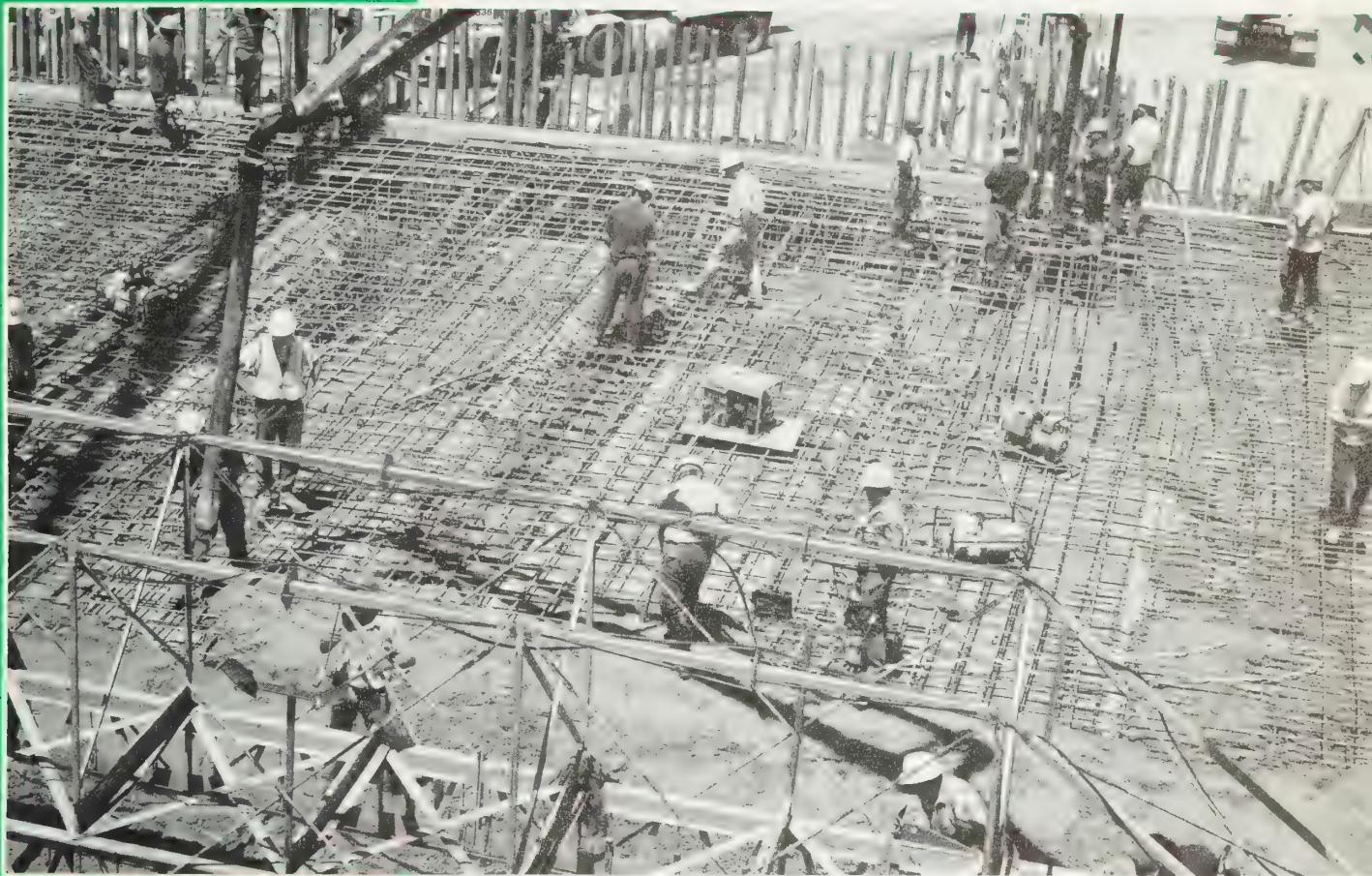


**jobsOntario**

The importance of capital in Ontario's growth strategy is underlined by the creation of new agencies that focus on long-term assets.

They will allow projects to be built faster and more efficiently, and will manage public assets in a more business-like way.





**Cheaper and Faster:**  
Innovation will get the first  
traffic onto Highway 407 by  
the end of 1996 and save  
millions of dollars.

## Highway 407: A pioneering partnership

**B**UILT FASTER THROUGH AN INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP OF THE private and public sectors, Highway 407 will reduce a long-standing bottleneck to the movement of goods across Ontario. This partnership and new approaches to financing will get the first 36 kilometres of the 407 built by the end of 1996, and will save \$300 million in costs in total. The full 69 kilometres will be finished by late 1998, 22 years ahead of schedule. Its construction will provide more than 20,000 jobs over five years.

Highway 407 will carry six lanes of traffic for much of its 69-kilometre length, sweeping north of the traffic tie-ups around Metropolitan Toronto. Its construction will make it easier for firms, especially in the vital auto industry, to move goods through Ontario's busiest manufacturing corridor. The highway will feature state-of-the-art electronic technology for automatic toll collection.



### *Giving workers the skills that better jobs demand*

# E

ECONOMISTS INCREASINGLY RECOGNIZE THAT "HUMAN CAPITAL" — the education and skills of the workforce — is the secret to long-term success in the global economy. To help workers maintain and improve their skills, Ontario this year will spend more than \$1 billion on training and adjustment, helping 370,000 workers. The Ontario Training and Adjustment Board is bringing together business, workers and local communities across the province to design and deliver training that makes sense in today's world.

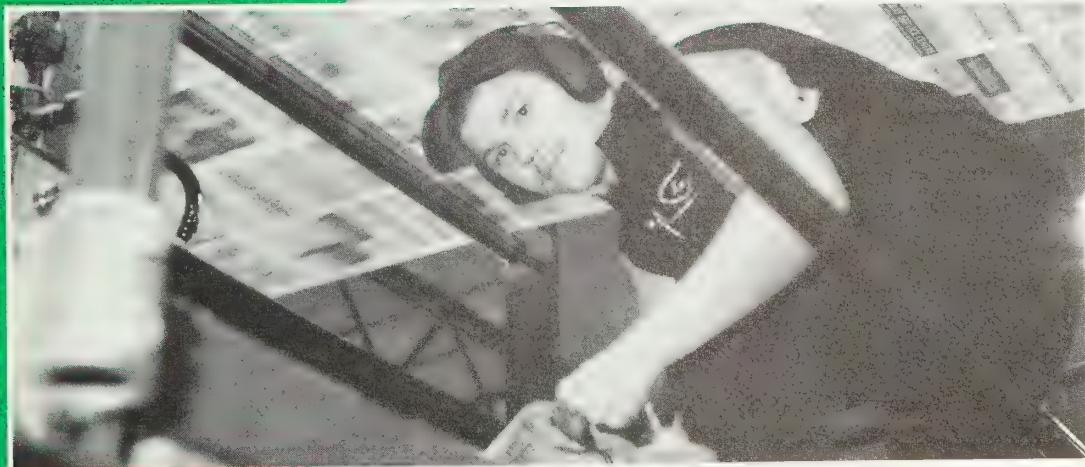
With economic expansion under way, the next task is to make sure that everyone benefits. We must meet the challenges remaining in the labour market — ensuring that our young people get that vital first job and that the long-term unemployed and others at a disadvantage get their chance at worthwhile employment.

Ontario's workers are among the most highly skilled in the world. The share of workers who have completed university, college or an apprenticeship has risen to 45% from 28% in less than 10 years. Firms such as Toyota Canada that have invested here often cite the skill and flexibility of Ontario workers.

## *CanWeb: Trained to grow*

Ontario's government has worked with Ken Crawford and Garry Hollinaty of CanWeb Inc. right from the start, when an Ontario Development Corp. loan helped the partners buy their first printing press. JobsOntario Training funds have been a key element in CanWeb's strategy of growth through training and teamwork. Since its start-up less than three years ago, this formula has helped CanWeb create more than 40 jobs — half of them with support from provincial programs. Located in Grimsby near St. Catharines, CanWeb now competes successfully for contracts in the U.S.

Training has put Joey Roukema and Kevin Ball, both 19, on the job.



## BUILDING FROM THE GRASSROOTS

### *Balanced growth from the bottom up*

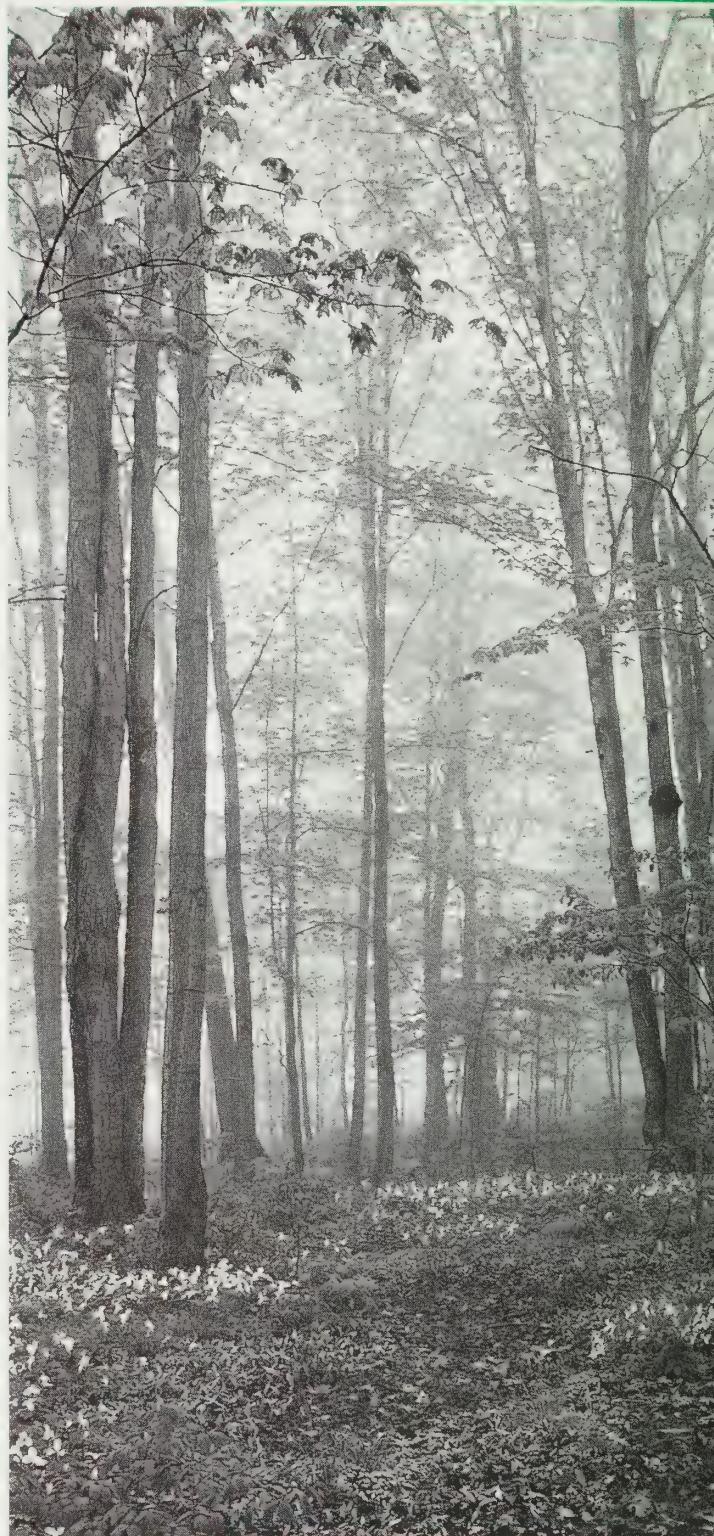


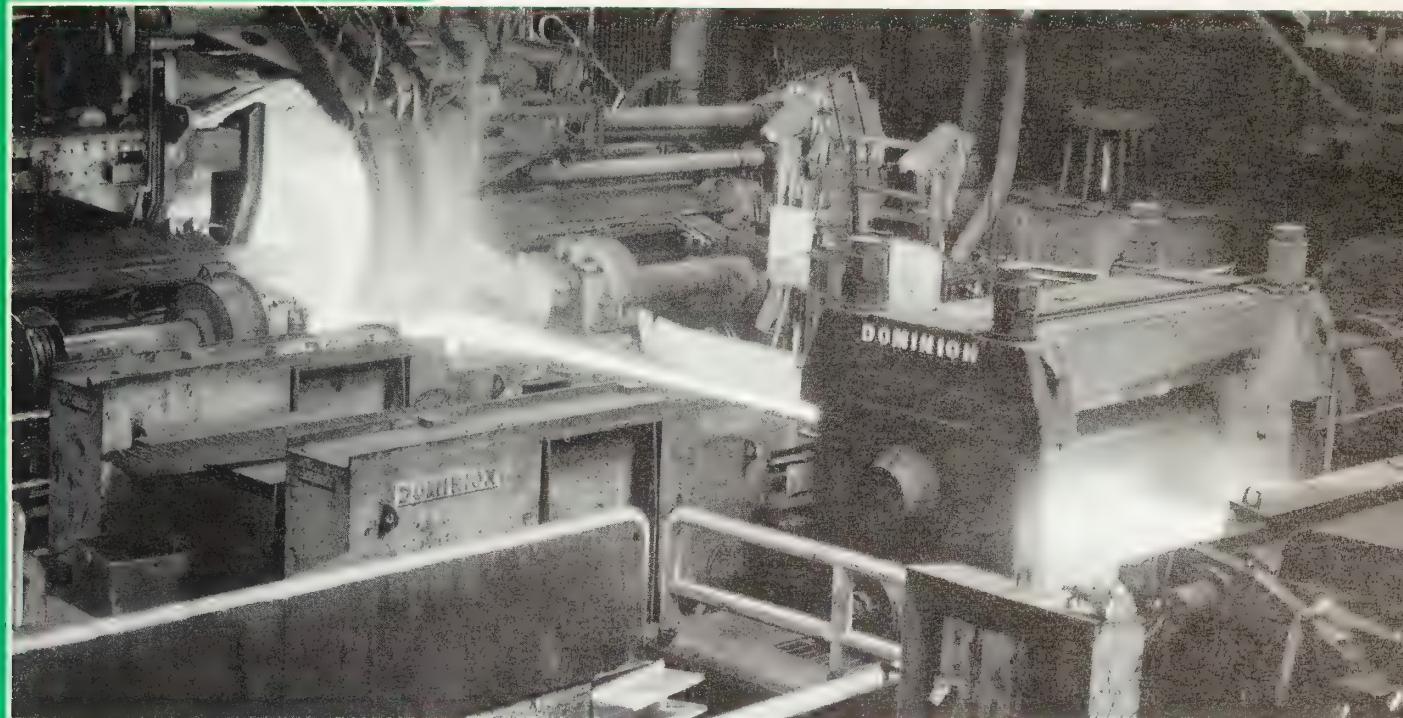
**jobsOntario** Community Action puts local growth into local hands. It helps communities across Ontario to plan their futures, encourage local investment and work as partners with the Province and others to build community assets. So far, more than \$400 million has been committed to projects in communities. A provincial investment of \$129 million for 1,000 projects has drawn more than double that in partners' commitments.



Help for rural communities ranges from boosting consumption of locally-grown food to innovative financing. FarmPLUS earmarks funds at local credit unions and caisses populaires for farm loans and mortgages, putting community money back into its roots. **jobsOntario** Community Action funding makes it possible for small communities with no other financial institutions — such as Northern Ontario's Ear Falls and South River — to set up their own credit union or caisse populaire.

A new approach to forestry is successfully balancing jobs and protection of the environment. The fees that companies pay for cutting trees on Crown land go directly into a trust fund that is dedicated to renewing and preserving Ontario's forests.





Coil box ahead of 106" strip mill and crop shear at Algoma's plant in Sault Ste. Marie.

### *Partnership paves the way*

**T**EAMWORK HAS BROUGHT A DRAMATIC CHANGE TO ALGOMA Steel, Sault Ste. Marie's largest employer. Provincial help, including loan guarantees, staved off a threatened shutdown almost three years ago. Working with employees who will ultimately own 60% of the new company, Algoma developed a restructuring plan to save 5,000 jobs.

Today the steel-maker is showing a profit, and workers who hold Algoma stock are among the biggest beneficiaries. Demand is up because of strong growth in the auto sector, which uses Algoma's flat-rolled steel. The company has also benefited from a lower Canadian dollar, boosting its exports, and from lower costs. As well, Algoma gives credit to a new team-based approach to operations that has grown out of the worker-ownership initiative.

Ontario has promoted co-operation between workers and employers across the province with a number of measures, including the worker ownership program and the creation of labour-sponsored venture capital funds that make strategic investments. The Province has actively helped other communities to keep major employers by bringing all parties to the table to find practical solutions.

## SUCCESS IN THE NEW WORLD ECONOMY

### *Ontario's competitive edge*

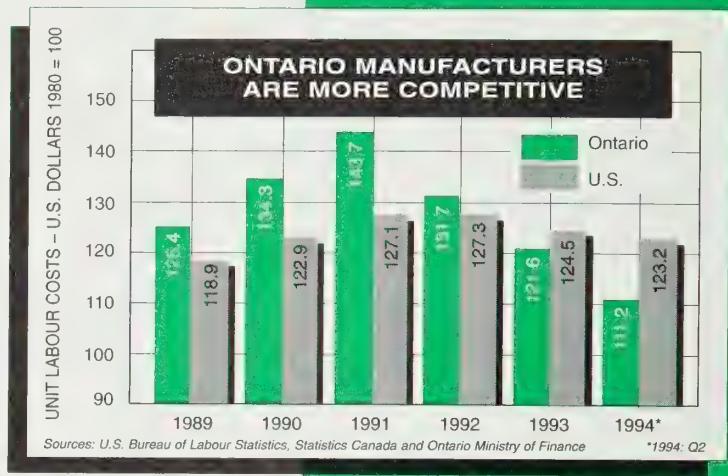
ONTARIO'S MANUFACTURERS HAVE more than doubled their exports to the U.S. in the past ten years. Auto assembly and parts lead the way, but high-tech business equipment and services are an increasing source of export earnings. Ontario firms are also bolstering trade with developing economies around the world.

Through its Sector Partnership Fund, Ontario has brought together workers, employers and others in a range of industries. By working together they are able to put in place winning strategies more easily than a single firm could. The Ontario Investment Service tells potential investors about the advantages of setting up shop here. Ontario Development Corp., Innovation Ontario and Centres for Excellence help firms — especially in the high-tech sector — to grow.

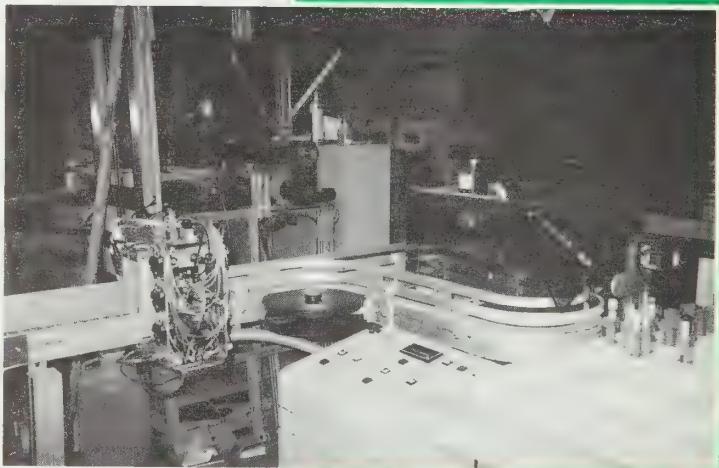
### *Clearing the hurdles*

ONTARIO INNOVATION AND PRODUCTIVITY Service, set up in 1993, is a prime example of the way government can leverage its funding into dramatic private-sector job gains. The program's strategic project grants help small firms over specific hurdles as they grow. Other grants support the hiring of key staff and allow firms to exploit export markets.

Labotix Automation Inc. of Peterborough, a designer of automated systems for medical labs, had only 16 employees when it joined the program in August. Since then it's hired 24 more people and sales are booming. Grants will help it meet its goals of manufacturing more of what it designs, selling to the U.S. market, and managing its growth.



Labotix: succeeding in a high-tech niche



## SUCCESS IN THE NEW WORLD ECONOMY

### A vital sector investing for jobs and growth

Ford's Windsor plant makes popular mini-vans.



### Case Study: Ontario's Auto industry

O

NTARIO NOW EXPORTS MORE VEHICLES TO THE UNITED STATES than does Japan. Auto-makers have invested more than \$4 billion in the past five years to build and upgrade their Ontario operations. This vote of confidence, plus a highly-skilled labour force and competitive costs, have helped Ontario achieve a trade surplus of \$13.6 billion in autos with the U.S. and rest of Canada.

Government has worked with the industry to make it more productive and competitive. Continuing investments by auto-makers in Ontario will create 22,000 new jobs over the 1995-98 period. Ontario produces nearly 13% of all vehicles sold in North America, second only to Michigan, and our market share is expected to continue to grow.

Ontario auto-parts makers are moving increasingly to high-tech production techniques to meet the needs of car-makers. Many parts makers have reached world-class standards for design and engineering.

#### MAJOR AUTOMOTIVE INVESTMENTS IN ONTARIO

COMPLETION DATE	PROJECT	INVESTMENT (\$ MILLIONS)
1992	Ford – new Oakville Paint Plant	439
1992	Chrysler – retooled Bramalea Assembly Plant	600
1992	Freightliner – new St. Thomas Assembly Plant	30
1993	Ford – new Windsor Cosworth Aluminum Casting Plant	200
1993	Ford – retooled Oakville Assembly Plant	560
1994	GM – retooling Windsor Transmission Plant	300
1994	Ford – expanding Windsor Essex Aluminum Casting Plant	100
1995	Ford – reopening Windsor Ensite Engine Plant	1,000
1995	Toyota – new Cambridge Engine Assembly Plant	30
1995	Chrysler – expanding Windsor Assembly Plant	600
1996	Honda – expanding Alliston Assembly Plant	20
1996	Ford – expanding Oakville Truck Plant	400
1997	Toyota – expanding Cambridge Assembly Plant	600
1997	Ford – expanding Windsor Engine Component Plant	650
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>5,529</b>

# CLEARING THE WAY FOR BUSINESS

## *Cutting taxes to create jobs*

**T**HE 1994 BUDGET GAVE EMPLOYERS A holiday from the health tax on new workers for their first year on the job — directly supporting 12,000 new jobs. Government has also provided one of the world's best tax incentive systems for the research and development that the modern marketplace demands. Ontario's corporate income tax rate for manufacturing is more than 4 percentage points lower than the U.S. average. For the second year in a row, the 1995 Budget carries a promise of no new taxes.

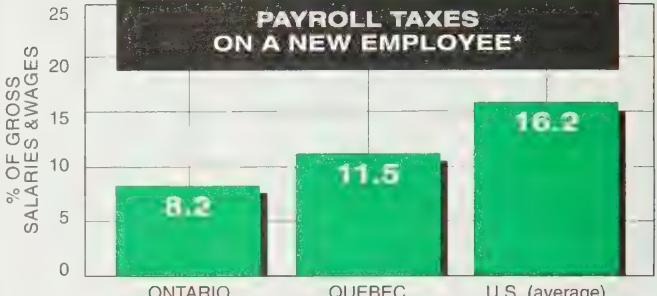
## *Making it easier to thrive*

**O**NE OF THE TOUGHEST CHALLENGES A SMALL BUSINESS FACES IS getting the capital it needs to grow. Ontario has acted to do away with that barrier. It has given loan and trust companies the power to make commercial loans to small businesses based on solid credit criteria, not just size.

Ontario has broadened the role of credit unions and caisses populaires, which are vital to both community development and small business growth. It is working actively with these movements to train staff, develop closer ties to local businesses, and help communities which have no other financial institutions.

Government is making it easier for all co-operatives to increase their capital base by selling shares to both members and non-members.

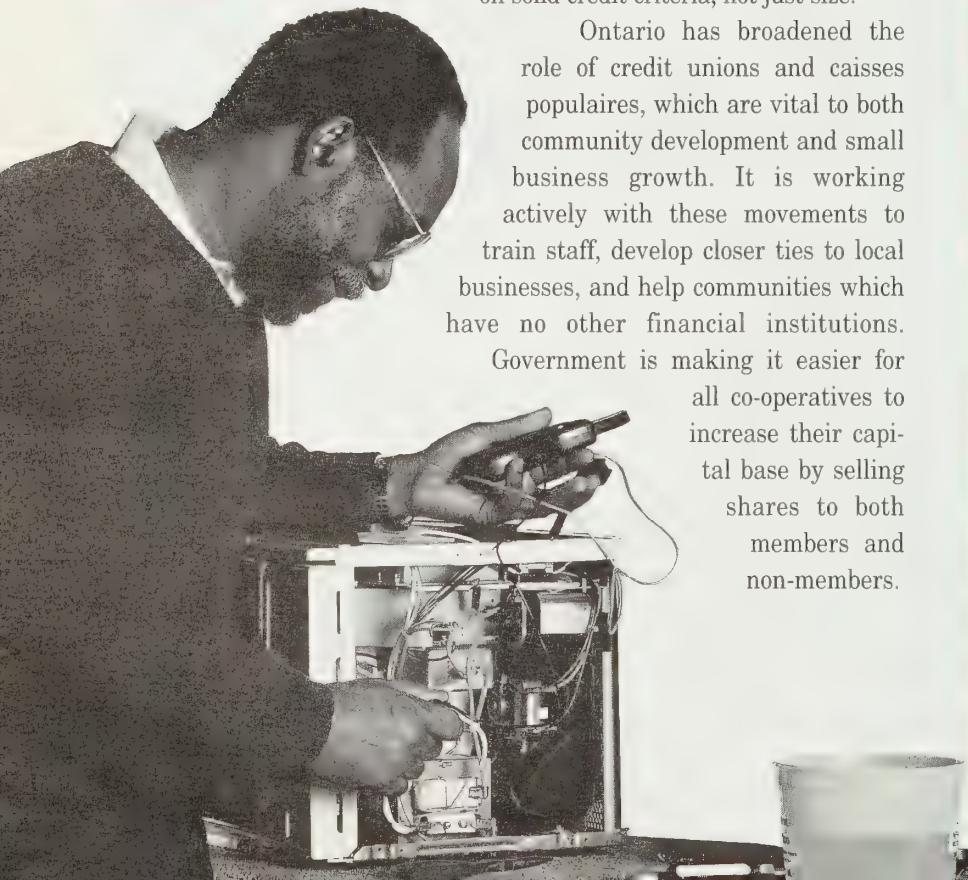
### **PAYROLL TAXES ON A NEW EMPLOYEE\***



\*Payroll taxes include mandatory employer-paid contributions and employer-paid contributions for health care, accident and sickness. Ontario's rate reflects new EHT provisions for employers who expand their payrolls

Source: Ontario Ministry of Finance based on 1992 data from Statistics Canada and U.S. Dept. of Commerce

The Ontario Training and Adjustment Board is setting new directions in ensuring workers have the skills that businesses need. Across the province, its 25 local boards will bring together workers, business and communities to design and deliver effective training tailored to their requirements.





## *Cutting red tape*

The Clearing the Path initiative saves time by letting a small business owner fill in the most important registration forms at a computer workstation. This is one example of how government is streamlining operations by using new technologies. Another program allows drivers to renew their licences 24 hours a day at "kiosks," similar to automated banking machines.

## *Controlling the cost of doing business*



HE GOVERNMENT AND ITS AGENCIES ARE WORKING TO CONTROL the costs of doing business in Ontario. Ontario Hydro has cut its rates for large users and held the line for everyone else, while the Workers' Compensation Board has frozen average assessment rates.

Ontario's health-care system offers business a major advantage. When the costs of employer-paid health care are included, manufacturers' hourly labour costs are significantly lower than in competing U.S. jurisdictions. Including the cut in Employer Health Tax, payroll taxes for a new employee are 49% lower in Ontario than the U.S. average.

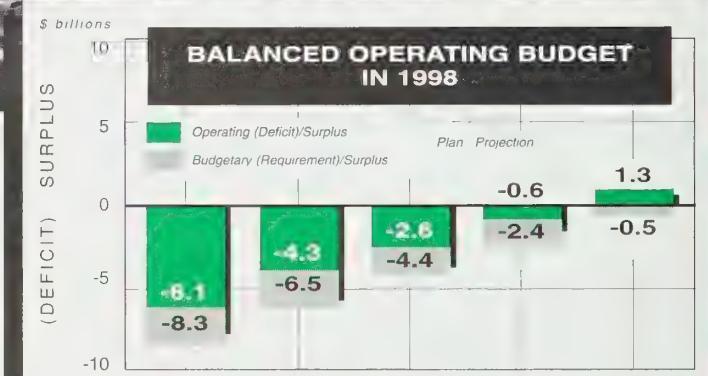
# BALANCING ONTARIO'S NEEDS



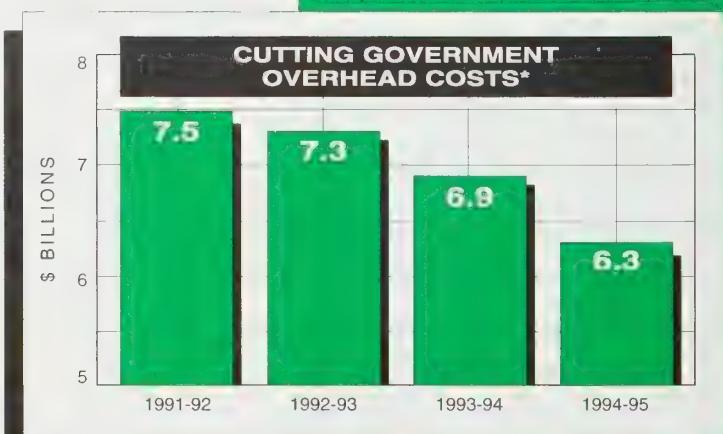
## Ontario's deficit is down by 30%

ONTARIO'S ECONOMY IS EXPANDING because firms have taken action to become more efficient and focused. Now their growth will help to bring the budget into balance, but we can't expect economic growth to do the entire job. Government, like its partners throughout Ontario, must continue to control spending and to achieve more with fewer resources. That is the key to sustaining Ontario's success.

By putting in place the social contract and a multi-year plan to control spending, the Province has been able to achieve more progress on cutting costs than any Ontario government in more than 50 years. This government's hard work has helped to reduce Ontario's deficit by more than 30% from two years ago.



Note: The difference between the budgetary requirement/surplus and the operating deficit/surplus is equal to the budgetary capital expenditure. For 1997-98 and 1998-99, budgetary capital expenditure is assumed to be \$1.8 billion



\*Includes salary and wages, employee benefits, transportation, communications, services, supplies and equipment

## MAINTAINING SERVICES

	1990	1994	Change
Students in elementary and high school (millions)	1.770	1.893	7%
Students in colleges <sup>(1)</sup> and universities	319,000	363,000	14%
Hospital cases/patients (millions) <sup>(2)</sup>	14.7	16.0	9%
Women covered by pay equity	360,000	780,000	117%
Subsidized child care spaces	46,600	68,300	47%
People in training programs <sup>(3)</sup>	313,000	376,000	20%
People receiving in-home long-term care services <sup>(4)</sup>	207,000	300,000	45%

(1) Based on full-time enrolments. Preliminary figure for 1994, based on fall survey.

(2) 1989-90 fiscal year versus preliminary 1993-94 fiscal year.

(3) Training interventions and job placements plus literacy programs funded by the Province. Estimated figure for 1994.

(4) Estimated figure for 1994.

## Hard at work to keep services affordable



S IT HAS OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS, the government will continue to work with its partners at all levels in Ontario — including hospitals, schools, universities, towns and cities — to find better ways of providing public services. This co-operative effort focuses on permanent changes that will lower the cost of government without massive cuts to services or jobs.

Although spending on programs has increased by an average of less than 1% a year in real terms in the past four years, government has spent

strategically on vital priorities. For example, better management of the health-care budget — government's single largest expense — has freed up funds for cancer treatment, cardiac care, dialysis, trauma and catastrophic drug costs while keeping the system affordable.

**Access to affordable child care is crucial for working parents. Boosting the child care budget to \$566 million in 1994-95 has brought the total number of subsidized spaces to more than 68,000, an increase of 47 per cent since 1990.**



## *Keeping to the job we've started*

**O**NTARIO'S ECONOMY IS GATHERING STRENGTH FOR SUSTAINED growth in the 1990s. Government has put in place what the global economy demands for success: well-maintained public assets, a skilled and flexible workforce, and a competitive cost structure. Most important, the government has worked to build links throughout the province and its economy. It has worked to create the teamwork that's needed to meet our remaining challenges.

### SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS

*These initiatives reflect directly Ontario's commitment to working together with key partners:*

- The Ontario Training and Adjustment Board puts local workers, businesses, and communities into the training picture
- **jobsOntario Training** has helped create job opportunities for more than 65,000 people, many of them long-term unemployed or on welfare, to get training and has given them the chance to get worthwhile jobs, while letting employers upgrade the skills of existing workers
- **jobsOntario Capital** uses innovative partnerships to build the public assets that Ontario's economy needs in order to grow
- **jobsOntario Community Action** helps cities, towns and other communities plot their future course for growth and carry out capital projects
- **jobsOntario Homes** provides funds for community-based, non-profit groups to provide affordable housing built by the private sector
- The Ontario Lead Investment Fund, in partnership with financial institutions, invests in knowledge-based growth companies
- Centres of Excellence bring together university researchers and the private sector to encourage businesses to adopt new technologies
- The Technology Adjustment Research Program is helping labour respond in innovative ways to technological change in the workplace

Ontario's vision is a revitalized economy where high-quality jobs continue to fuel our success at home and internationally. That success will depend on the ability to continue building partnerships. In the past four years government in Ontario has shown commitment to bringing together workers, employers and communities to solve their problems through teamwork.

## W

ITH FEWER RESOURCES, GOVERNING IN THE 1990S MEANS thinking and acting strategically. Ontario's government has shown that it can create a climate for growth while controlling its own costs. Cutting program costs without hurting jobs or services has taken hard work by all levels of government in Ontario, by the health-care and education sectors, and by thousands of public-sector workers across the province.

Now that the economy is expanding, we can turn the energy that has brought us this far to meeting the challenges that remain. We have to think about how we can best work together to help young people get a first job that puts them on course for successful long-term employment.



We must consider how to continue to take down barriers that keep people who want to work out of the workforce — and how to give those people whose organizations are changing rapidly the skills and the opportunities to adapt or to move into new jobs. Answering these challenges through teamwork will be the focus of government's consultations leading up to the 1995 budget.

In the past four years, government in Ontario has balanced Ontario's needs: creating jobs, providing quality services, and spending wisely. These achievements rest on a foundation built through partnerships. Sustaining Ontario's success and meeting our remaining challenges will rest on this unique ability to bring together workers, employers, communities, and other providers of public services.

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

**D**RAWING UP ONTARIO'S BUDGET MEANS MAKING DECISIONS THAT affect all of us. Because of that, Ontario's government has opened up the Budget process over the past four years to draw on the thoughts and ideas of as many people as possible. For the 1995 Budget, Minister of Finance Floyd Laughren and other members of the government will travel throughout Ontario to explain what goes into making a Budget and listen to your viewpoint.

Here is a list of the meetings planned for January and February of 1995. As the consultations approach, watch for a notice in your local newspaper confirming the dates and giving the details of the time and place. Or you can call the Finance Minister's office in Toronto at (416) 325-0400 after January 1, 1995 to get an updated listing.

In addition to these gatherings, your local Member of the Provincial Parliament may hold meetings before the Budget to talk about the issues. You can get more information about this by phoning the constituency office of your M.P.P., which is listed in your phone book's white pages under his or her name.

You may also wish to write to the Minister of Finance about the Budget. His address is:

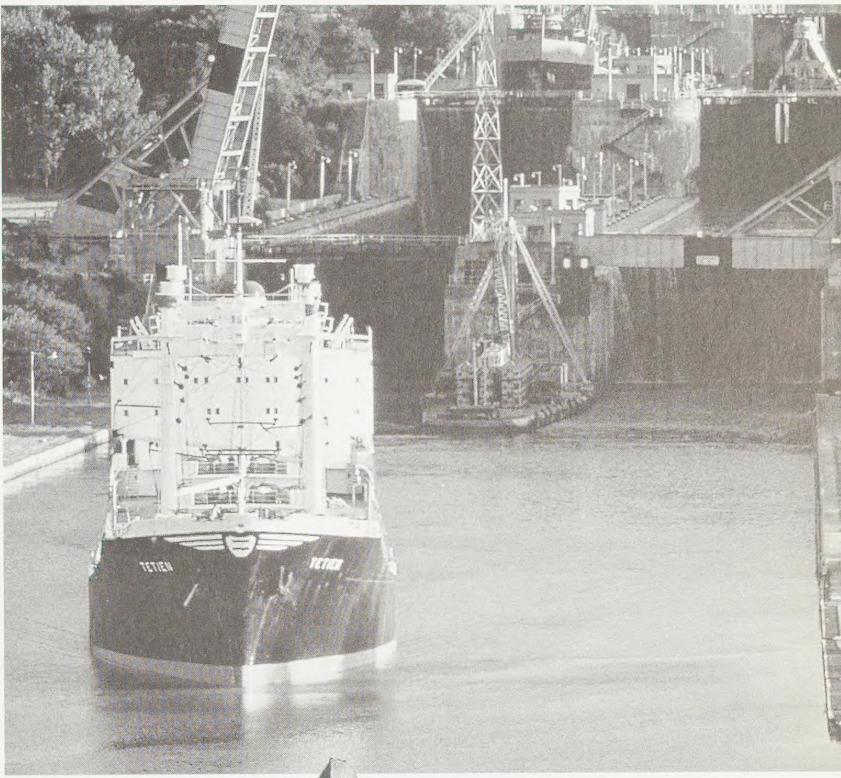
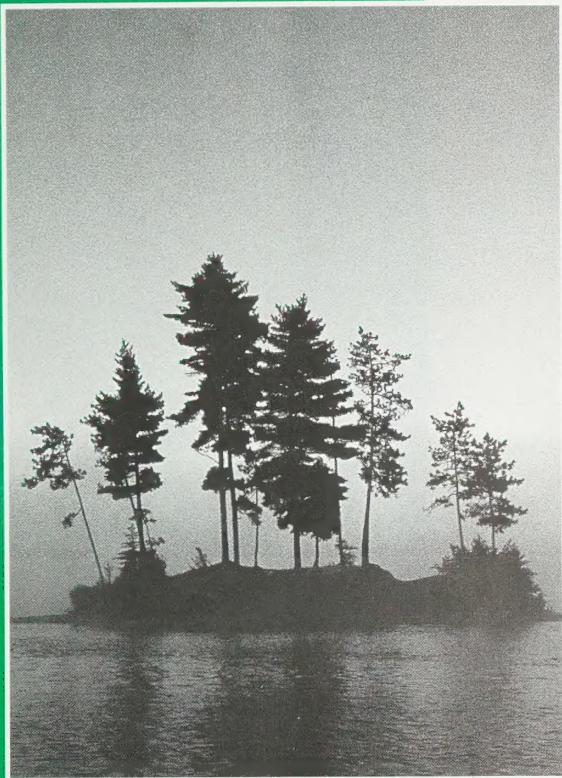
Floyd Laughren  
Minister of Finance  
7th Floor, Frost Building South  
7 Queen's Park Crescent  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1Y7

If you want to send a fax, the number is (416) 325-0374.

## *Budget-making needs your help*

- January 20—Sudbury
- January 26—Thunder Bay
- January 27—Sault Ste. Marie
- January 30—Hamilton
- February 1—Kingston
- February 2—Ottawa
- February 7—Toronto
- February 8—Toronto
- February 9—Toronto
- February 14—Toronto
- February 15—London
- February 16—Windsor

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK



Our growth is based on confidence in Ontario as a place to live, to work, and to do business. With teamwork and partnership, we can keep building on that confidence.



General inquiries should be directed to:

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Communications Branch, Room 519  
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